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Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 01138 090656Z

14
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 SSM-03 SAB-01 /091 W
---------- 052131
R 090601Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4857
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, EG, KU, SY, XF
SUBJ: MORE IN THE AFTERMATH OF SADAT VISIT TO KUWAIT

REF: KUWAIT 1078

1. SHORTLY AFTER EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT'S FEB 29 TELEVISED PRESS CONFERENCE IN KUWAIT (IN WHICH HE REVEALED "SECRET" AMERICAN PLEDGES AND CRITICIZED SYRIANS), SYRIAN AMBASSADOR LODGED FORMAL PROTEST WITH KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTRY WHICH ALLEGEDLY ACCUSED KUWAITIS OF "FAVORING" EGYPT. SYRIANS WERE APPARENTLY NOT SO MUCH CONCERNED OVER WHAT SADAT SAID AS THAT KUWAITIS SEEMED TO GIVE HIS
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 01138 090656Z

REMARKS SUCH FULL COVERAGE.

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2. PRESS MARCH 8 NOTES THAT DECISION WAS TAKEN AT CABINET LEVEL TO TENDER OFFICIAL APOLOGY TO SYRIA, FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER-SECRETARY RASHID AL-RASHID ACCORDINGLY CONVEYED APOLOGY ORALLY TO SYRIAN AMBASSADOR MARCH 7, APPARENTLY COUCHED IN FRAMEWORK OF POOR COORDINATION BETWEEN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND INFORMATION MINISTRY. NEW PROCEDURES REPORTEDLY ARE TO BE ESTABLISHED BY THE TWO MINISTRIES TO REVIEW SENSITIVE STATEMENTS BY FOREIGN LEADERS WITH A VIEW TO SCREENING OUT PORTIONS OFFENSIVE TO OTHER FRIENDLY COUNTRIES.

3. COMMENT: EPISODE AGAIN REFLECTS HOW DETERMINED KUWAITIS ARE TO MAINTAIN GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH SYRIA AND EGYPT AND IS PROBABLY AN UNHAPPPY REMINDER TO THEM OF THE COST OF PLAYING POLITICS IN THE BIG LEAGUES. KUWAITI POLICY OF TRYING TO HAVE THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS WAS SEVERELY PUT TO THE TEST DURING AND AFTER SADAT VISIT WITH SOME UNHAPPY RETURNS. KUWAITIS PROBABLY NOW FIGURE THEY HAVE PROBLEM CORRECTED.
MAU

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